LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-20: Canceled

21. (currently amended) An isolated peptide ~~comprising~~ consisting of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 which interacts with anti-apoptotic proteins of the Bcl-2 family selected from Bcl-2, Bcl-XL and Bcl-W.

22. (cancelled)

23. (cancelled)

24. (previously presented) A nucleic acid sequence coding for the peptide of claim 21, comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

25. (previously presented) A nucleic acid sequence deduced according to the genetic code from the amino acid sequence of claim 21.

26. (cancelled)

27. (previously presented) A recombinant vector comprising the nucleic acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, which is operably linked to regulatory elements for expression of the peptide of claim 21.

28. (previously presented) The recombinant vector of claim 27, which is a plasmid comprising the regulatory elements necessary for expression of the peptide in a host cell.

29. (previously presented) A host cell, which has been transformed with the recombinant vector of claim 27.

30. (previously presented) A method for identifying a compound which modifies the interaction between the peptide of claim 21 and the anti-apoptotic protein of the Bcl-2 family, comprising the following steps:
    a) fluorescently labelling the peptide of claim 21;
    b) incubating the labelled peptide in the presence or absence of a test compound;
    c) adding a fusion protein comprising an anti-apoptotic protein of the Bcl-2 family; and
    d) measuring the fluorescence polarisation.

31. (previously presented) A method for identifying a compound which inhibits the interaction between the peptide of claim 21 and the anti-apoptotic protein of the Bcl-2 family, comprising the following steps:
    a) fluorescently labelling the peptide of claim 21;
    b) incubating the labelled peptide in the presence or absence of a test compound;
    c) adding a fusion protein comprising an anti-apoptotic protein of the Bcl-2 family;
    d) measuring the fluorescence polarisation; and
    e) selecting a test compound for which the increase in fluorescence polarisation observed with the test compound is significantly less than that observed without the test compound.

32. (previously presented) A method for identifying a compound which enhances the interaction between the peptide of claim 21 and the anti-apoptotic protein of the Bcl-2 family, comprising the following steps:
    a) fluorescently labelling the peptide of claim 21;
    b) incubating the labelled peptide in the presence or absence of a test compound;
    c) adding a fusion protein comprising an anti-apoptotic protein of the Bcl-2 family;

d) measuring the fluorescence polarisation; and

e) selecting a test compound for which the increase in fluorescence polarisation observed with the test compound is significantly greater than that observed without the test compound.

33. (previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the anti-apoptotic protein of the Bcl-2 family is Bcl-2.

34. (previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the anti-apoptotic protein of the Bcl-2 family is Bcl-XL.

35. (previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the anti-apoptotic protein of the Bcl-2 family is Bcl-W.

36. (currently amended) The method of claim 30, wherein the peptide ~~comprises~~ consists of the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

37. (previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the peptide is fluorescently labelled with fluorescein.

38. (previously presented) The method of claim 30, for identifying a compound to modulate apoptosis.

39. (previously presented) The method of claim 30, for identifying a compound for the treatment of pathologies involving deregulation of apoptosis.

40. (previously presented) The method of claim 30, for identifying a compound for the treatment of autoimmune diseases, neurological disorders and cancers.